

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /079 W
-----190258Z 062069 /64

R 181235Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4044
INFO AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3117

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, PFOR, SO, UR
SUBJECT: EPMG BREAKS SILENCE ON GSDR

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 3092 (NOTAL), B) MOGADISCIO 0788

1. MAY 17 ETHIOPIAN RADIO AND MAY 18 ETHIOPIAN HERALD
CARRIED STATEMENT FROM MININFO SPOKESMAN IN REPLY TO
SIAD BARRE'S STATEMENT THAT SOMALIS WOULD GO TO WAR IF
DJIBOUTI THREATENED. STATEMENT NOTED GSDR HAD REFUSED
RENOUNCE ITS CLAIMS TO TFAI WHILE EPMG HAD OFFICIALLY
RENOUNCED ALL CLAIMS. EPMG HAD NO POLICY OF TERRITORIAL
AGGRANDISEMENT, BUT WOULD NOT YIELD INCH OF HER TERRITORY.
IN CONTRAST, GSDR HAS NEVER HIDDEN ITS DESIGNS TO ABSORB
DJIBOUTI, AND DESIGNS ON DJIBOUTI CONSTITUTE ONLY
PART OF ITS LARGER CLAIMS ON TERRITORIES OF OTHER
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NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

2. SPOKEMAN CONTINUED THAT PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE
TOOK VIEW THAT ANY COUNTRY WHICH REFUSES TO SUBMIT
TO SOMALIA'S TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IS NOT SOCIALIST
COUNTRY. FOR GOVERNMENT WHICH CLAIMS TO FOLLOW
SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM TO HOLD SUCH POINT OF VIEW

WAS ABSURD AND BEYOND COMPREHENSION. IRREDENTISM
HAD NO PLACE IN HORN OF AFRICA. TO PUSH IRREDENTISM
WAS TO GO AGAINST CURRENT OF TIME AND AGAINST BASIC
PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM WHICH SIAD
BARRE CLAIMS TO FOLLOW. INSTEAD, UNITY OF
OPPRESSED CLASSES AND DISAVOW IRREDENTISM SHOULD BE
ASSERTED AND UPHELD.

3. SPOKESMAN INDICATED MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS
BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND DJIBOUTI AND STATED EPMG HAD
EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI WOULD
RECOGNIZE HER VITAL INTERESTS. SPOKESMAN CLOSED
BY NOTING THAT SIAD BARRE'S STATEMENT REVEALS HIS
OWN NAKED DESIGN TO ANNEX DJIBOUTI, AND THAT
PURSUIT OF SUCH A POLICY "REVEALS TRICKLE OF MADNESS".

4. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTEL A (NOTAL), THIS
FIRST BREAK IN RECENT EPMG POLICY OF DELIBERATE
SILENCE VIS-A-VIS GSDR. GIVEN THIS FACT AND STATEMENT
OF AMBASSADOR SAMANTAR (REFTEL B), EMBASSY SPECULATES
SIAD SPEECH MAY BE DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY GSDR TO TEST
WATER WITH BOTH SOVIETS AND EPMG. GSDR PROBABLY
INTERESTED IN SEEING JUST HOW FAR EPMG CAN BE PUSHED
AND NO DOUBT MOST INTERESTED IN HOW SOVIETS WILL
REACT. WHILE EPMG STATEMENT IS STRONGEST IN SOME
TIME, IT STILL RESTRAINED COMPARED TO PAST
ATTACKS AND COMPARED TO PRESENT INVECTIVE USED
AGAINST EGYPT, SUDAN AND IMPERIALISM. EPMG STATEMENT
ALSO INTERESTING IN THAT IT STATES TWO OTHER
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CORNERSTONES OF PRESENT EPMG POLICY -- UNWILLINGNESS
TO YIELD INCH OF TERRITORY AND VIEW THAT GSDR IS
PSEUDO-MARXIST STATE WHICH PLACES NATIONAL INTERESTS
ABOVE TRUE SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM.
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